

Application No. 10/781,453

Filed: 02/18/2004

Attorney Docket No.: 1027-2DIV

REMARKS

Claims 9, 10, 18-19, 22-28, 30-32, 34 and 35 are pending in the application. Claims 9, 18, 22, 24, 30 and 31 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 11-17, 20, 21, 29 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. No new subject matter has been added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication on Page 4 of the Office Action that Claims 9, 10, 18, 19, 23-28, 30-32, 34 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9, 18, 22, 30 and 31 have been so rewritten and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 10, 19, 23-29, 32, 34 and 35 are each dependent, either directly or indirectly, from one or another of rewritten allowable independent Claims 9, 18 and 30 and are believed to be patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

In the Office Action Summary, Claim 22 is indicated as objected to. However Claim 22 was not rejected and was not indicated as having allowable subject matter in the Detailed Action portion of the Office Action. Applicant assumes that it was the Examiner's intent to indicate Claim 22 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 22 has thus been amended and rewritten in allowable form, and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

On Page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 17, 21, 29, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,367,459 to Corley. Claims 17, 21, 29, and 33 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

On Page 3 of the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,581,832 (Bridley) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,367,459 (Corley). Claim 1 has been cancelled thereby rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

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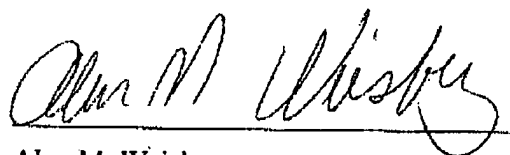
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Applicant believes the Application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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